GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5332
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
SECULAR VALUES IN EDUCATION
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tendency to adopt secular values in education received a setback during the recent years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to promote secular value education without discarding the humanist elements in religious traditions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFHUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a)and(b): The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, revised in 1992, promotes culture and human values, including secular values, which help to eliminate obscurantism, religious fanaticism, violence, superstition and fatalism at all levels of education system. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) brought out by the NCERT in 2005 is an effort to promote secular values among school students. NCF-2005 which seeks guidance from the constitutional vision of India as a secular, egalitarian and pluralistic society, founded on the values of social justice, and equality, states, `India is a secuiar democratic state, which means that all faiths are respected, but at the same time the Indian state has no preference for any particular faith. The felt need, today, is to inculcate among children a respect for all people regardless of their beliefs`. The document further points out that India is a multicultural s ociety made up of numerous regional and local cultures. People`s religious beliefs, ways of life and their understanding of social relationships are quite distinct from one another. All the groups have equal rights to co-exist and flourish, and the education system needs to respond to the cultural pluralism inherent in our society. NCERT has brought out new syllabi incorporating secular values for all stages of school education and has taken up the process of textbook development in a phased manner in consonance with NCF-2005.